



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



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NUMBER 6

HERNDON IN NOVEMBER

The November 10th meeting of the MAAGCS will be hosted by Superintendent John Tutich and Herndon Centennial Golf Course. Owned by the Town of Herndon, the golf course is part of a lovely 4 square mile recreation center. You may have already had the pleasure of enjoying some of its facilities if you've ever attended the annual GWGCSA picnic. Or, if you enjoy cycling, you know it well because of the celebrated Washington and Old Dominion Bike Trail that winds through the Herndon Golf Course. Designated a National Recreation Trail, the bike path begins at Four Mile Run Park in Shirlington and runs 34 paved miles through the Virginia countryside to Leesburg. Part of the Northern Virginia Regional Park system, the trail averages over a million cyclists annually.

Opening July 1, 1978, Herndon Centennial was designed by Ed Ault following the concept of the town manager who envisioned a golf course set amongst 1½ acres of flower beds. Construction of the course began in April of '78 and was completed the following November. It is a popular course with play this year exceeding 65,000 rounds.

Measuring 5900 yds., Par 71, the greens of penncross bentgrass receive 7-8 lbs. of nitrogen annually and are mowed 5 times a week to 5/32". Fairways are a combination ryegrass/bluegrass and receive 6 lbs. of nitrogen annually beginning in the spring and being spooned through November. They are mowed 3 times weekly to 3/4". Tees are also a combination ryegrass/bluegrass which are mowed 3 times weekly to 1/2" and receive 6 nitrogen yearly.

The course is renovated in the fall and receives heavy top dressing in the spring and fall, with four additional light applications throughout the remainder of the year. John uses the same material that the greens are constructed with — bankrun sand — for top dressing. The irrigation system is a fully automatic Buckner KCS system with water coming from a 4 million gallon holding lake which is replenished from 5 wells and storm runoff.

Head Pro at Herndon Centennial is

Jack Walker, PGA. John's Asst. Supt. is Donald Doxee.

Our host, John Tutich, originally started in this business as a caddy. John's first superintendent position was with Hannastown Golf Course in Pa. Before coming to Herndon in 1978, he was previously affiliated with Crofton Country Club and Willowbrook Country Club.

In 1959, John had the pleasure of installing the first automatic irrigation system with central controller in western Pennsylvania. A superintendent for 28 years, he remembers mixing fungicides with sand and peat and applying the mixture to greens by hand. John enjoys his work immensely, considering it a hobby, not a job.

Golf is available after 11 a.m. with a snackbar lunch, cash only. Note that showers are not available. Cocktails and dinner of prime rib will be held at the Dulles Holiday Inn. Cocktails are open bar and dinner is \$24. Dr. Jack Hall will be our guest speaker. Come and enjoy! Remember to RSVP to the MAAGCS hotline at (301) 381-0030.

DIRECTIONS TO COURSE: Take Exit #12 (Dulles Toll Road) from 495 (Capital Beltway). From Dulles Toll Road take Exit #2. Turn left onto Centreville Road. Travel 1 mile. Turn left onto Ferndale Road. Golf course is on left.

DIRECTIONS FROM COURSE TO DINNER: From course turn right onto Ferndale Road. Proceed to Elden Street. Make right onto Elden Street. Travel 300 feet to light. Make right at light onto Sully Road (Rte. 28). Dulles Holiday Inn is 1 mile on right.

DIRECTIONS TO RESTAURANT: From 495 (Capital Beltway), exit Rte. 7 West. Make left at Sully Road (Rte. 28). Dulles Holiday Inn is 5 miles on left.

IT'S A BOY!

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Tom Ritter, on their new arrival Andrew Michael Ritter. Andrew arrived June 10, 1987. Our best wishes for happiness and health go to you all.

VPI Professor Guest Speaker for November Meeting

Dr. Jack Hall, a professor at VPI and an Agronomist with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, will be our guest speaker November 10th at the Herndon Centennial Golf Course.

A long time member of the MAAGCS, Dr. Hall is an organizer and speaker of the Virginia Turf Conference and Virginia Tech Field Days. Additionally, he serves on the Advisory Council for Landscape Management Magazine.

Topics for the evening discussion will include various ongoing research projects in the areas of growth inhibitors on poa annua, plant hormones, evapotranspiration, and more. Dr. Hall will provide the latest up-to-date information on the cutting edge of the turfgrass industry. Make plans to attend to find out how this information can be used to better your course.

Nominations MAAGCS Elections

The following candidates have been nominated for elective position within the MAAGCS. Voting will occur at the December 9th meeting at Army Navy Country Club. As a member, it is your duty to familiarize yourself with the candidates and cast your vote accordingly. Voting is not a privilege, it's a duty!

President: George Renault, CGCS
Chevy Chase Club

Vice President: Walter Montross, CGCS
Springfield Golf & Country Club

Secretary: William Neus, CGCS
Columbia Park & Rec. Assoc.

Treasurer: Nick Vance
Laytonsville Golf Course

Directors

(two to be elected)

Ken Ingram
Columbia C.C.

John Hoover
Hillendale C.C.

Jim Meier
Belle Haven C.C.

Steve Potter
Woodholme C.C.

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

Published by this Association to aid the advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through education and merit.

George Renault, C.G.C.S.
Editor

1987 Officers and Directors

President	Lee Dieter
Vice President	George Renault
Secretary	Bill Neus
Treasurer	Walter Montross
President Emeritus	Gerald Gerard
Educational	Steve Cohoon
Membership	Russell Bateman
Golf	Nick Vance
Social & Benevolence	Steve Nash
Editorial & Publicity	Lester Tanner
Finance	Tom Regan

Match Play Ends . . . November

Match Play tournament was suspended to permit play of our Annual Memorial Tournament, October 13. Results of this competition were as follows:

Tom Regan, CGCS — Low Gross and Bill Glover trophy
Bob Orazi, CGCS — 2nd Gross
Joel Ratcliff, CGCS — 3rd Gross
John Tutich — 4th Gross
Jeff Yingling — 5th Gross
Ken Braun — Low Net & Frank Haske trophy
Steve Cohoon — 2nd Net
Dick Gieselman, CGCS — 3rd Net
George Renault, CGCS — 4th Net
Bob Miller, CGCS — 5th Net

Long Drive and a chip was won by William Neus, who fasted on steaks and wheaties. It was a well struck ball.

Closest to the pin: #6 - 4 inches: Bob Orazi, CGCS; #10 - 19 feet, 4 inches: Tom Cassat.

Again, a thank you to G.L. Cornell Co. and T.E.S.C.O. for contributing the Bill Glover and Frank Haske memorial trophies.

The following "points" standing in the match play are being reprinted to refresh the memories and choke those your editor is trying to catch: 1. Nick Vance, 25; 2. Tom Regan, 19; 3. Bob Orazi, 18; 4. Grant Pensinger, 15½; 5. George Renault, 15; 6. Steve Potter, 14½; 7. Wally Whetzel, 12; 8. Howard Gaskil, 10; 9. Ken Ingram, 10; 10. Jim Kelly, 9.

A Talk with the Candidate

The MAAGCS has submitted the name of Lee Dieter as a possible candidate for election to the GCSAA Board of Directors. As President of the MAAGCS, we are fortunate to have access to Mr. Dieter and learn first hand his views as a potential candidate. Following is an interview with the candidate held Oct. 13th in which he sets forth his qualifications and discusses his goals should he be elected. Needless to say, there are many questions that could have been asked of the candidate. This is a starting point. This newsletter has one more issue to run in 1987. 1988 issues will resume in March, well after GSCAA elections. If you have a particular question, send it in and we'll include it as we continue to explore the local candidate's stand on the issues.

Lee Dieter has been a superintendent for the past 27 years. During that time he has been affiliated with the same club — Washington Golf and Country Club. Such an accomplishment in an industry renowned for its lack of job security and stress speaks for itself.

Lee is a 1959 graduate of the Penn State two year turf program and, in addition to being our current president, served as MAAGCS President in 1973. He has also contributed 15 years on the MAAGCS Board of Directors. His community involvement includes 18 years service with the Boy Scouts and various parish activities with St. Agnes Catholic Church in Arlington, VA.

- Q.** What prompted you to seek nomination to the National Board of Directors?
- A.** I've always tried to further this profession and have done as much as I can toward that end — involvement with MAAGCS on the local level and various committees on the national level. This seems to be the next natural step.
- Q.** What special qualifications do you bring to the job?
- A.** Experience within the profession itself and direct involvement with national committees — 1 year with Conference & Show, 4 years with Certification, 2 years with Government Relations, and 1 year with Nomination. Also, I've attended 24 of the 26 Conferences held since beginning in this industry. In addition, I've served 4 years with the U.S.G.A. Greens Section Committee and have been involved with local & regional turfgrass associations.
- Q.** How would you respond to the voters' question "Why should I give you my vote instead of giving it to another candidate?"
- A.** I love this profession and enjoy putting more of myself into it. I don't see this as just a job. In terms of casting a vote for me as opposed to another candidate, look at my record. See what I've done and what I would like to do. I certainly wouldn't expect anyone to give me their vote if they didn't think I was the better qualified candidate.
- Q.** We've come a long way from being "greenskeepers." Do you think we've come far enough?
- A.** There needs to be another step beyond certification. This would mean implementing Phase II and would certainly have to be a coordinated effort on the parts of both the Education and Certification Committees. We need more courses designed to make us better superintendents. And, for those interested, possibly an educational management program that leads toward a general manager's function.
- Q.** Often individuals run for office because they are dissatisfied with current leadership and want to effect a change. What do you think could be improved upon within the National?
- A.** As to improvement, I would like to see more committee involvement. Also, in terms of allied associations at the national level, I believe there could be better cooperation from them. They could do more to help advance our profession. On the subject of Headquarters' personnel, I've been impressed with the staff — they're easy to work with.
- Q.** It has often been said that the whole is only as strong as its parts. Do you believe the National is responsive to the need and wants of its regional associations?
- A.** While I have believed it could be better, I've recently been encouraged that it is becoming more responsive. However, I also think that the national could do more at the local level to promote and strengthen the local associations.
- Q.** What benefits would the MAAGCS derive should you be elected?
- A.** You asked earlier about responsiveness — keeping in touch. My election would provide that — better updated information. A voice at the national level.
- Q.** Most candidates run on a platform. What is your platform?
- A.** I will work hard for a stronger association. GCSAA for GCSAA. This is not a turfgrass association. Anything that strains this, I will oppose. I will also work toward better chapter involvement and increased committee involvement at the Board level.

On the Tee . . .

Many of us look upon the GCSAA as the big brother in the sky. There, but distant. "Those people" who put on the annual conference and show but from whom we don't often reap a tangible return. Well, we have now. In case you passed it over in your reading, the EPA — our nemesis — has taken action on cadmium and prohibited its use. The only exception is use on golf courses. Granted, it is restricted to tees and greens and parameters for application are restricted, but we've got an exception and we've got the National to thank for it. Information provided by the GCSAA and a demo set up at Congressional last May turned the tide against a total ban on cadmium use. Representing the industry before government agencies such as EPA is a strong argument for a strong National.

With only one issue of the newsletter left in 1987, you only have one more chance to get into the running for a \$100 bond. Remember, the Article of the Year gets the distinction and the bond, so get your ideas in!

I've now completed one year as your newsletter editor, and has it been a learning experience! Probably for you as well as me. During the past year I've harped upon the subject of involvement, some may think incessantly. But no where is involvement more crucial than with this, "your" newsletter. If it is to achieve its purpose, "to aid the advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through education and merit" as stated above the officers' info, then you must be involved.

The betterment of MAAGCS members is not best served by a simple re-

printing of articles found in publications nationally available to superintendents everywhere. Our growth and improvement is more directly linked to what is happening here in our Mid-Atlantic backyard. What works here. Information offered and shared by our own members.

Because of this viewpoint, 95% of the articles you've read are written by us and about us. Those who contributed articles, tips and any and all information deserve our sincere thanks. They took the time and effort to share with us. They had just as many demands on their time as the rest of us but they went that little bit further and got involved. There's that word again!

I'm going to ask that you get involved again but it shouldn't take long. We'd like some feedback on how you feel about this newsletter. How would you improve it? What is not included that you would like to see included? Are there additional topics that you would like to see covered? What don't you like about it? Be honest and specific. Don't worry, I'm a superintendent so I have a thick skin! And you don't have to give your name! Take a moment and fill out the questionnaire. If you need more space, attach a sheet of paper. Drop it in the mail to me and we'll try to accommodate your requests.

Getting people to write articles has been no easy feat. If we're to keep this newsletter for us and by us — the MAAGCS — then we need your thoughts and support. The winter months are ideal for putting down on paper that idea you didn't have time for last summer. Or, maybe it was that problem and how you solved it. You could save someone time, effort and aggravation. Share it with us!

NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE

Do you agree that this newsletter should be about us — MAAGCS members as opposed to primarily national turf news?

Yes _____ No _____

Would you like to see more GSCAA news?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you receive it in a timely fashion?

Yes _____ No _____

What do you find most interesting? _____

What do you find least interesting? _____

What additional topics would you like to see covered? _____

General Comments: _____

Return to: G.E. Renault, 10323 Emerald Rock Drive, Oakton, VA 22124

Dates Worth Remembering

November 9-11, 1987, Penn State Golf Turf Conference, Keller Conference Center, The Penn State University, Univ. Park, PA. Dr. Joe Duich, (814) 865-9853.

December 9, 1987, MAAGCS Election meeting. Army Navy Country Club. Dave Fairbanks, host. RSVP (301) 381-0030.

January 4-6, 1988, Maryland Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show, Baltimore, MD. Dr. Tom Turner, (301) 454-3716.

January 13-15, 1988, Eastern Pa. Turf Conference & Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention & Exhibit Center, King of Prussia, PA. Dr. Tom Watschke, (814) 863-1613.

January 18-21, 1988, Virginia Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show, Richmond Marriott. Dr. Jack Hall, (703) 951-1527.

February 1-8, 1988, 59th International Golf Course Conference & Show, Houston, TX.

February 9-10, 1988, Northeastern Pa. Turfgrass & Grounds Maintenance School, Luzerne County Community College, Nanticoke, PA. (717) 963-4761.

February 23-25, 1988, Western Pa. Turf Conference & Trade Show, Pittsburgh Expo Mart/Marriott Hotel, Monroeville, PA., Randy Zidik, (412) 941-8552.

MAAGCS Donates Ride for USDA/RC

This past October, the MAAGCS contributed a 1985, 4-wheel gasoline Club golf car to the USDA Research Center as a token of our appreciation. It will facilitate work at the center in a multitude of ways, from enabling Jack Murray and other researchers to gather data in the field much easier, to facilitating visitors touring Jack's zoysia turf plots. And not least of all, it will allow Dr. Fred Grau a close up view of the turf plots instead of looking on from afar. The MAAGCS considers it an honor to be of assistance.

REMEMBER!

Our November meeting is a great chance to bring your spouse or steady friend to one of our monthly meetings. Instead of sitting back home envisioning images of Fred Flinstone and Barney Rubble at one of their Water Buffalo meetings, they could come along. (Wilma & Betty have been trying to get invited for years!) They'll have the pleasure of a night out, a good dinner, and an interesting speaker in Dr. Jack Hall. Not to mention the discovery that our "lodge" hats aren't quite as wild as Fred's and Barney's.

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